



MONTEREY NEWS

FEBRUARY 1997
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THE TOWN

School Board Representation (Feud 101, cont'd.)

A Jan. 7 meeting, hosted by Egremont to clarify the various options for resolving the Southern Berkshire School District controversy, again made clear how far the five towns are from an agreement. The question is how to be in compliance with the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, which requires regional school district school committee members to represent (approximately) their town's populations, while not giving the larger towns unfair weight. It has been an unsettled question for several years.

Moderator Bruce Person began the meeting by making clear that its purpose was to be informative, not combative. But there was sharp division between Sheffield's insistence on weighted voting by school committee members based on the populations of the respective towns and the Alford/Egremont insistence on district-wide elections (with residency requirements).

Sheffield Police Chief James McGarry, representing his town, claimed that the votes of other towns should not influence a local election and that district-wide voting, regardless of residency requirements, could tamper with the proportional voting power of committee members. Barbara Marchione, Select Board Chair from New Marlborough agreed with him on this point. But Alford representative Laurie Levinson, and Egremont representative James VanDeusen strongly insisted that district-wide voting with residency

requirements, coupled with weights based on the 1990 census, is constitutional, a fair manner of settling the dispute, and



paramount to the concerns of the district rather than to the individuals towns. Courtney Turner of New Marlborough concluded, "Do you want (school committee) members to hold their town's interest dearest or the school districts?"

Increasingly, that question appears to sum up what this whole wrangle is about. Judge Michael Ponsor of the Springfield District Court granted a stay on Jan. 6, requested by Egremont, on the lawsuit brought by Sheffield against the other four towns. This stay puts a hold on the case giving each of the towns an opportunity to vote at Town Meeting on the two options that will be on the ballot.

The Sheffield option consists of weighted voting based on census population counts. The Alford compromise consists of option - at-large weighted voting (adjusted only once based on 1990 census) with residency requirements. The court date of June 12, 1997 has been set for summary judgment - the judge's decision on how to settle the question, assuming the towns have not reached agreement.

Sheffield has made it clear that if the judge should rule in favor of the Alford compromise plan, they will appeal. At this time the unanimous agreement required does not appear possible, so this question could go on for a long and expensive time.

The Monterey Select Board has contended that since the suit was filed in July, Monterey will comply with whatever the judge decides and has no contention with Sheffield. It seems that the longer this controversy drags on the more disagreement there is between the towns and perhaps within the towns as well. Monterey has deplored the cost of such litigation and the divisiveness that could follow a court scenario in which the judge decides for the district.

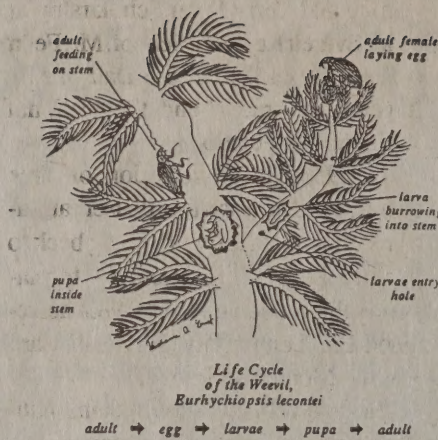
Weevils Proposed for Lake Garfield. Lake Garfield Association members Patricia Edelstein, Greta and Martin Cherneff, Peter Villainous, Dean Amidon, and David Quisenberry submitted a proposal to the Select Board for controlling Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Lake Garfield by introducing or augmenting the presence of the water milfoil weevil. This weevil, native to New England, feeds on EWM by boring into and eating the stem which is then destroyed before the plant flowers. (see illustration.)

Speaking for the Association, Edelstein explained that they are seeking partial funding for the project under the Department of Environmental Management's Lake and Pond Grant Pro-

gram. If the Town agrees to contribute \$1500, they will ask for matching grant funds. The Garfield project would be under the supervision of Sally Sheldon, Ph.D., Department of Biology, Middlebury College, Vermont. EWM (myrophillium) is an exotic macrophyte, now become native, that infests many of the lakes and ponds of North America. It has increased water temperature and water turbidity in some areas of the lake and made swimming, boating, and fishing difficult and, in some years, impossible. It may be introduced via cuttings on boat hulls and propellers, and is not controlled by mowing and drawdowns.

The consensus is against chemicals. Mechanical weed harvesting has not been done at Garfield. Dr. Sheldon began pioneering the control of EWM by either adding to or introducing the presence of the weevil at Lake Mansfield and Goose Pond in 1995. Because no weed harvesting has disturbed the propagation of the weevils and because they can survive the winter's cold, they have multiplied. She is encouraged by the amount of damage to EMW found by the 1996 investigation of locations at Mansfield and Goose Pond. The Board is studying information regarding the proposal.

Anniversary Plans. The Monterey 150th will be recognized by a parade after all. The Anniversary Committee has appointed a Parade Committee consisting of Danny Andrus, chair, Barbara Gauthier Del Martin, Peter Vallianos, Tom and Jane Thorn, Stephanie and Stefan Grotz, Maureen Meir and Arnold Hayes to plan how best to corroborate with the annual Memorial Day Parade. The theme will be *Monterey - Past, Present, and Future*. All sorts of exciting ideas are afoot - oxen, a fife and drum corp, a float, a real cannon, the solar car from Mt. Everett... maybe even a flyover! Some features will be different: the parade will break up at the fire station rather than the center of town to accommodate more



animals and vehicles, and it will be in early afternoon rather than in the morning so that people involved in other celebrations can attend. But there will still be hot dogs and cold drinks for everyone. **Dale Duryea Puts Town on Notice.** Since Proposition 1 went into effect, prohibiting the use of certain kinds of traps, it has made it impossible for Wildlife Control Officer Dale Duryea to do his job. He told this to the Board Jan. 6, when he appeared to turn in his resignation, effective in one month.

He spoke of the increased beaver population which poses a threat to the drinking water. Giardiasis, a disease causing diarrhea, is carried by beavers who dam ponds and streams. Duryea estimates easily 1000 beaver dams in the

area. He said one pair of breeding beavers can produce 288 little beavers over a 8-10 year period.

Duryea explained that the only kind of traps now permitted are expensive and difficult to use. The Board asked him to stay on in his position, giving the Town an opportunity to price and to consider new traps, and perhaps share them with other towns. He agreed to table his resignation and to review the situation with the Board in the spring.

Miscellany. Former Alternate Tom Gillis will replace Carleton Anderson, recently deceased, as interim Building Inspector. While still Alternate, Gillis met with the Board Jan. 6 to discuss the need for more building inspections during construction.

As an example of the present inadequacy, Gillis cited finding the framing of a house abutting a chimney where there should be at least 2" space between them. He recommended multiple inspections, including foundation, framing, electric wiring, and a final walk through. This means costlier building permits.

Maynard Forbes appeared before the Board Dec. 23 to renew operating permits for the General Store operation, the deli, and the package goods. Town Hall will be closed and there will be no meeting February 17 honoring Presidents' Day.

Jane Black

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.



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"SHEL" FENN 1912-1997

One of Monterey's "first citizens" - Sheldon E. Fenn, 85, died Monday, January 20, at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington. A longtime dairy farmer and Monterey official, he lived on Woodburn Farm on Blue Hill Road.

A community-minded poet, conservationist, and history-buff, he was born in Westfield on Jan. 3, 1912, son of Edward and Abbey Haggerty Fenn. He lived in Cheshire and Becket attending local schools, until moving with his family to Monterey in the 1920s. He graduated from the former Searles High School in Great Barrington.

Mr. Fenn worked on their 300-acre family dairy farm and in 1932 established a 100-acre tree farm on the property. He was a strong early advocate and fore-runner in crop rotation and served as Monterey's first chairman of the town's Conservation Commission. He also took extensive courses in soil management and animal husbandry.

Mr. Fenn and his wife, the former Beatrice Terry, hired sons and daughters of friends and neighbors and called them the "Woodburn Boys." One of his traditions for many years was naming Holstein calves after the Woodburn Boys' friends and girlfriends. He left the farm to Woodburn Farm Preservation Trust, which he established in 1988, so the land will be held as open space and active recreation.

In the 1960's he did the farming at Gould Farm, taking care of the cows and the hay; in recent years, they returned the favor by working his land.

Mr. Fenn was a former chairman and a 40-year member of the Board of Assessors, the town animal inspector, a member of the Planning Board and a longtime Finance Committee member. He was appointed a member of the original building and finance committee to establish the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, the first regional district in the Commonwealth, embracing kindergarten through 12th grade. He was an active member of the Republican Town Committee since the 1930's.

He established and funded the

Beatrice and Terry Fenn Scholarship at Mount Everett Regional School. Mr. Fenn also was a member of the Dairymen's League Cooperative and the National Tree Farm Association.

In 1955, the Association of Tree Farmers cited him as a true conservationist and mentioned his work going back to the early 1930s, long before the formation of the association. In 1983 he received the Community Service Award from the Monterey Grange.

He had a book of his poems published and was an ardent reader who loved discussing history. His wife, whom he married in 1937, died June 24, 1986. A son, Terry L. Fenn, died in 1943. He leaves a step-brother, Robert Hardesty of Great Barrington, two nieces and two nephews.

Mr. Fenn's funeral was held at Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington on Saturday, January 24, and was attended by about 150 people, including many Montereyans whose lives he touched. The service was conducted by Monterey United Church of Christ pastor Keith Snow. Mr. Fenn's poem, *My Church* adorned the program for the service, and his poem *Life* was read.

Following the service, the funeral procession returned to Monterey, and turned up Corashire Road to pass Mr. Fenn's home, allowing many a chance to

say goodbye to the house which held so many memories. Across Rt. 23, on Blue Hill Road, Mr. Fenn was interred in the Corashire Cemetery. Mr. Fenn's poem, "Drifting Leaves" was read by Pastor Snow.

Following the burial, a reception was held at the Monterey United Church of Christ. Out-of-town friends of Mr. Fenn and local residents and relatives were treated to fresh milk, brought by Gould Farm, in honor of Mr. Fenn. Soup was also provided by Gould Farm. Other refreshments, including meatballs and cold cuts were provided by the Monterey General Store.

Perhaps the favorite food item at the reception was the glass cookie jar full of Oreo cookies. The jar was always full at the farm, and the boys and visitors could help themselves. The clinking of the glass would give away the proverbial hand in the cookie jar, prompting a joke or laughter by Mr. Fenn. Mark Makuc brought the jar to the reception.

Community members who so desire may make memorial contributions in Mr. Fenn's memory to The Monterey United Church of Christ Capital Campaign Fund through the Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home.

Mr. Fenn's poetry is featured on p.12 of this month's News.

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PRESIDENT'S DAY OBSERVED

The Monterey Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 17, 1997, for the observance of Presidents' Day. There will be no meeting of the Monterey Select Board or the Board of Health on Monday, February 17, 1997. The next regularly scheduled meeting of these boards will be Monday, February 24, 1997.

Monterey Select Board

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MONTEREY'S 150TH: PARTY UPDATE

With the holidays behind us, and only 181 days until the big celebration (Aug. 1-3), the steering committee has moved into high gear for Monterey's birthday party. The committee is pleased to announce that Peter Murkett and Kim Hines have agreed to co-edit the sesquicentennial book.

Peter is the former editor of the *Monterey News* and Kim has extensive experience producing various publications. Their proposed book will focus on the community life of Monterey by weaving together historical threads and contemporary perspectives.

Several able writers and historians have already committed to making contributions, which will be available in time for the Party. It promises to be a thoughtful, yet entertaining document, to which future generations can look to get a sense of our multifaceted community in 1997.

The hard work of producing the party will fall to numerous volunteers. The steering committee has sent out a mailing to all members of the community listing activities and events. There are several levels of participation that might fit your abilities and interests.

It is time to start thinking about how you can become involved. Make new friends and contribute! Coordinators will be needed to assume an overall responsibility to plan, organize, and carry out

major events. Help will be needed in the days before and during the celebration. Putting on this Party could be a wonderful way to spend part of a summer vacation.

A new, landmark attraction for the celebration is planned - a community gazebo. It will serve as a focal point for many events during the celebration, and for future community activities. The schedule calls for it to be dedicated on Friday evening August 1, along with music, while we have a kick-off picnic before the Friday evening dance.

The gazebo will also be the site on Saturday, Aug. 2, of a special program featuring "local reminiscing" about Monterey history that promises to be unique. Around the town there will be several activity sites, including sports competitions, arts, crafts and historical displays that will be ongoing both Saturday and Sunday. Plans are being discussed for nature walks, house and garden tours.

The Bidwell House is planning a special event on Sunday, August 3, and following the Interfaith Service led by Pastor Keith Snow there will be a community breakfast at the Firehouse Pavilion. The celebration will continue into the afternoon.

We need community members to volunteer. Please respond to the mailing. The steering committee needs to know how many talented members of the community are interested.

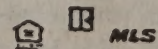
Ian Jenkins

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ON BEING A MINISTER AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

A Few Personal Thoughts

I need to preface my remarks: what I am writing is somewhat risky because it is personal and, therefore, subject to misinterpretation.

Once again I am re-evaluating the local church and my role in it! There are times my life feels like a broken record. I have been scrutinizing both the local church and the role of pastor since the days of tutorial study with William Barclay at Glasgow (Scotland) University in the mid 1960's. I have lived with a low grade and, at times, rather intense, discontent that has provoked an ongoing internal conversation. Part of this discontent arises from an intellectual standpoint. What's the church all about, anyway?

Throughout it's history it seems to have been co-opted by various left-wing and right-wing ideologies. It's teachings have been, more often than not, the source of great human suffering and prejudice. It has perpetuated ignorance at great cost to the human spirit. It's missionary efforts have been filled with self-righteousness that has bordered on arrogance. The church has not only been the object of idolatrous worship, as if it were God, but it has also encouraged idolatry, the worshipping of the Bible, ritual, dogma, institution. It has fostered a religious (priestly) caste/class system that has of-

ten usurped the role of God. And an insidious part of this is that both, the church and the priestly/professional class, have a vested interest in perpetuating each other.

The other part of this discontent is strictly personal. I am a member of that professional religious class and employed by that religious institution. Acknowledging the conflict that exists in my mind and heart, I continue to search for a place of integrity. The local religious community (in this case, Christian) receives it's authority for existence, insofar as it remains true to the person and work of Jesus. And what we know of Jesus is almost infinitesimal. My reading reveals no institution or religious class being created by Jesus. But what little we do know is that he wanted all of life to be filled with compassion, love and forgiveness. That, he believed, is the nature of God. The reason, I believe, for a local religious community's existence is to nurture that and to manifest it in their collective and individual life. No more, no less.

Personally, I can contribute some gifts and expertise. They are not greater nor lesser than anyone else's. Academic training and extensive life experiences, along with other people's in the community, can help enrich and nurture our life.

But in neither case - the local church's existence nor my personal leadership role

- are we indispensable. And certainly, if either of us cannot be compassionate, loving and forgiving, we have undercut the local church's reason for existing and my role as a religious leader.

I like to see these two aspects of local church and ministry in creative tension. Obviously, this is a very superficial discussion. But I think they reflect what are core issues for both the local church and my ministry.

On a related issue, a study group will begin Monday evening, February 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. downstairs in the church. The book: Encountering God by Diana Eck. Everyone is welcome. Please call Keith Snow at 528-5850 for more info.

Keith Snow, Pastor
United Church of Christ

APPEAL FOR VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

The Monterey Veterans Memorial Committee requests generous donations toward the purchase and erection of the new memorial to Monterey veterans. The memorial will cost \$19,500. The names of the veterans, published in a previous issue, have been updated, and WWII, Korea and Vietnam names will be submitted for future publication. We plan to go back to the Revolutionary War, and

Monterey United Church of Christ

Sunday Services • 10 a.m.

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For assistance & information:

Keith Snow (Pastor)	528-5850
Bob Emmel (Clerk, Trustee)	528-1321
Tom O'Brien (Trustee)	269-7471
Judy Hayes (Worship)	528-1874

With a prayer request or to join the Prayer Chain:

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have 70 names to inscribe from that war.

The location of the Monterey Veterans Memorial Park will be the intersection of Blue Hill Road and Rt. 23, in the southerly section of the newly acquired cemetery land. It will be dedicated during the Town's 150th anniversary celebration this summer.

Donations may be made out and sent to: Monterey Veterans Memorial Committee, c/o Treasurer, Town of Monterey, Monterey, MA 01245.

Monterey Veterans Memorial Committee: Dean Amidon, Chairman,
Frank D'Amato Arnold Hayes,
Georgiana O'Connell, Raymond Tryon

NEWS FROM THE MONTEREY SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Bob Curtis, our revered transfer station attendant, asked me to put in a message for him the next time I wrote a Solid Waste piece. He wants to thank all the people from whom he received cards and gifts. He is quite overcome and feeling grateful. One woman referred to him as "Mr. Wonderful". "That's something, I have never been called in all my days," he said. Highly deserved, if you ask me!

Good news! The Master Garbologist has announced that they will now be handling the recycling of Plastic peanuts! It is very important that no contaminants be mixed in with these items, and so they have asked that they be either bagged or placed in cartons with the name, address and phone number of the recycler clearly marked on the outside of the container. No big deal. Be sure to alert Bob that you are leaving them so he can get them under cover until collection. More Good News! We can now recycle nickel cadmium rechargeable batteries! (Not Household batteries) Bob will place a container outside his shed and will provide written material with further information.

On another front, come spring, we along with the eleven other member towns in our Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District, will be working on improving our recycling ef-

forts. Getting our recycling percentage up will make us eligible for funds and equipment. The Material Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield, where our recyclables are processed, pays us \$20 per ton for our recyclable materials. (Some private haulers, such as Roger and Co. do not use our transfer station and take what recyclables they collect here to a facility other than the MRF. The income from that tonnage is lost to us, but I have asked Roger to let us know how many Monterey tons they recycled last year, so that at least we can get the percentage credit.)

It is pretty obvious that many of our citizens are still tossing recyclables into the compactor. Your Solid Waste Committee has been puzzling on how to get those of our citizens who scoff at recycling to do better. Coercion? Education? Do spot checks? Carrot and stick approach? Suggestions are more than welcome. Many towns have resorted to charging a "per bag" fee for non-recyclable waste. We hesitate to do that, as it is has been noted that real recalcitrants then dump their contaminated material into the recycling bins. This would be disastrous as such loads would be rejected at the MRF. After rejection they would then be shipped off and dumped at the nearest landfill, costing Monterey both hauling and tipping fees as well as the disgrace of adding unnecessarily to a landfill.

I have often wondered about the mindset of those who won't recycle. As above noted we get good money for our recyclable product. I would hazard a guess that the folks who most bitterly complain about taxes and urge fiscal responsibility, are among the last to take recycling seriously. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that they are the very ones who can't be bothered to recycle and throw everything into the compactor, thereby not only helping to fill up a landfill, but also costing the town its rightfully earned MRF money. Oh, say it isn't so!

Onward and upward!

Joyce Scheffey
Monterey Solid Waste Committee

CET RECEIVES GRANT

The Center for Ecological Technology has received a grant from the Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (MAC), an agriculture education organization.

The grant will be used to coordinate a day of workshops for teachers on good, gardening and agriculture. The workshops will be open to teachers and the community and will be held at Berkshire Community College in March.

The purpose of the workshops is to increase awareness and appreciation of local agriculture while enabling teachers to bring agricultural concepts and growing techniques into the classroom. Potential workshop topics include nutrition, apple-based activities, worm composting in the classroom, local farming, and school gardening projects. Professional development points will be available to participants.

Forty-one teachers from 14 schools and thirty five community members attended one or more of the workshops held last year.

For more information, contact Matthew Mattson or Sherill Baldwin at CET at (413) 445-4556. This and other environmental educational programs of CET benefit from organizational support for the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

CET is a non-profit energy and resource conservation and solid waste management organization with offices in Pittsfield and Northampton.

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3pm - 5pm - kids/family hockey
5pm - 7pm - public skating
7pm - men's hockey

Saturday:

dawn to noon - kids/family hockey
noon - 3pm - public skating
3pm - 5pm - kids/family hockey
5pm - 7pm closed

7pm - 9 pm - public skating party
Sunday:

9 am - 12 pm - men's pickup
noon - 3 pm - public skating
3pm - 5 pm - kids/family hockey
after 5, closed for ice-making
Tuesday, 7pm - men's hockey league

Support men's hockey at the Monterey Cup Saturday Feb.8. There will be no public skating on that day.

GOULD FARM NEWS

Gould Farm has recently appointed a new Director of Development. Rita Kasky, a native of Hartsville, was formerly the Associate Director of Brandeis University's Office of Development and Alumni Relations, in their regional New York City office.

More recently, she served as development consultant to Gould Farm and to the Berkshire Botanical Gardens. She was also Director of Development and Public Relations for the Austen Riggs Center.

Ms. Kasky's responsibilities include the annual and capital campaigns, foundation and corporate support, and planned giving.

In announcing Ms. Kasky's appointment, and the successful completion of Gould Farm's 1996 annual fund campaign, Executive Director Brian Snyder commented, "We are fortunate to have found someone with Rita's level of experience, who happens to also to be a neighbor. The combination strongly supports our community-based approach to mental health care."

Gould Farm is a 600-acre residential psychiatric rehabilitation facility just off Route 23 in Monterey. It has an 84-year history of providing treatment for people with mental illness regardless of their ability to pay. During each of the past three years, the Farm has provided more than \$1,000,000 of uncompensated care.

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PERSONAL NOTES

Monterey folk turned on to CNN's Worldwide Live this Christmas Eve past felt very much at home! The setting is a small New England church and the people are so very familiar to us. Yes, the broadcast 'Christmas in Vermont' (filmed in a small church there) featured the Amidons! There they were - Peter, Mary Alice and sons Stefan and Sam!

Viewers shared in a magical celebration of the season with this very warm and musically talented family. Now, having completed a fall tour of the East coast, they are planning an exciting Feb. to May tour, on the West coast and England and Ireland. Proud parents/grandparents Dean and Fran assure us they will be in Monterey after all of that is said and done!

Congratulations to Jeremy Vallianos, a junior honor roll student at Mt. Everett Regional in Sheffield, who has been chosen to represent the school on April 7 for Student Government Day in Boston. Students from around the state will meet with officials that day to learn how state government operates.

Kudos to Joe Kopetchny who, wrestling for the Mt. Everett Eagles, earned a second place finish at 135 at the Berkshire County Invitational Tournament, and a first place finish at the Hudson (Mass.) Tournament. David Ohman is also off to a good start this season earning some pins and wins at 119. And hats off to Mt. Everett soccer player Katie Kopetchny who earned honorable mention on the 1996 All-Berkshire girls soccer team voted by the league coaches.

Fifth grader Travis Raab was a cast member in the recently presented two-act play, "The Wizard of Oz". Middle school students (grades four thru six) at Berkshire Country Day School took on the entire successful production! Morgan Clawson helped give a new look to Community Services' food pantry. Her computer design class at Monument Mt. High School chose 'Helping Hand' as the name for the food pantry, created a new logo, and designed a newspaper ad about the pantry and its mission. The communications and audio-visual departments also developed 30 to 60 second

television and radio spots. And, congratulations to Mike Mielke III who made the honor roll for both the first and second quarters at Monument Mountain Regional High School in Gt. Barrington!

It's been a treat to bump into Walter Andersen, George Emmons, and Lena Pedersen, all out and about a bit after their recent setbacks. We wish you all continued good progress! Happy Birthday wishes this month to Gige O'Connell on Feb. 1, to Mark Makuc and Donna Trumbull on Feb. 2, to Mike Mielke Jr. on Feb. 7, to Claude 'Tim' Burke and Bob Rausch on Feb. 9, to Jack Jefferson and Lanny Lanoue on Feb. 14, to Dave Gauthier on Feb. 15, to Maryellen Brown on Feb. 16, to Kimberly Gero on Feb. 18, to Marta Meluleni on Feb. 19, to Rachel Rodgers on Feb. 20, to Maggie Clawson on Feb. 22, to Jim Edelman on Feb. 23, to Ed Dunlop on Feb. 25, to Mark Amstead and Shelly Bynack on Feb. 26, to Paul Makuc, Morgan Schick and Kayla Snyder on Feb. 27 and to, last but not least, that leap year kid Shaen O'Connor on Feb. 29!! And, Happy Anniversary to Jim and Betty Connery on Feb. 5, to Gerry and Marge McMahon on the Cape on Feb. 7, to Arnold and Judy Hayes on Feb. 13, and to Don and Pat Amstead on Feb. 27. Any news or birthday greetings you would like to share? Please give me a call at 528-4519 or jot items down and drop them in the mail to me, just Rt. 23. Thanks in advance!



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ON THE ROAD AGAIN 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

This night is always magic! I sat, with light jacket on, with friends at a picnic at the Fish River, Alabama, about a mile a way from my winter home. We had come to watch the decorated boat parade. As I ate potato salad, my thoughts wandered...

Christmas Eve in Butte, Montana. I was a freckled, straight-haired little girl. I had pleaded for a doll that I could feed. My father and mother went every year to New York City for three weeks. Before they left, I gave them both notes "I want a pritty doll that I cin fead."

In the weeks before Christmas I thought of nothing else. My father and mother always went to the Christmas Eve dance at the Silver Bow Club. My father couldn't ever hammer a nail, so my mother, in the late hours after the dance, put together a bike, and set up an electric train for my brothers.

She must have just gotten into the sheets, when the three of us woke up, crept down the stairs (of course, noisily), turned on the living room.... THERE was our Christmas! Jimmy went to the couch where he had pinned his stocking; Jacky to the big chair. I, full of trepidation, walked slowly to the green chair in the corner. Sitting on a pillow was the loveliest small doll in purple velvet coat and hat. I put her in my arms. Her little round pink mouth had a hole in it!

Back to the picnic on the river. Coffee was being poured.... When I was a teenager in Montana, I, like my parents, went to a Christmas Eve dance at the Country Club. I was going with Jack... what a good dancer he was. Jack brought me home on the dot of midnight. The living room looked as usual. Mother always stayed up, reading in her bed, until I regaled her with the happenings of the dance. We both said "Merry Christmas", and I went on to bed. I knew, as soon as she heard my door close, she would go downstairs and go to work.

On Christmas Day I would exchange gifts with my friends... most lived in our block... Lee, Patty, Hoopy, Izzy, Andrea,

Jewel, Gay, Jean Ann, Helen... The night before, Jack and I gave each other presents in the car. Christmas afternoons were for visiting -father and mother Woodard, with the three of us in tow. When we were young we dragged our lastest toy or doll through the piles of snow: afterwards, we wore the clothes we got for Christmas. Year after year we always stopped at the Kerr house... Ryan's... Corret's... Hobbins... Evans'... Hansen's and White's on the flat.

Back... more people were gathering on the shores of the Fish River...

My first Christmas married to Ted... he was in the Air Force. We were at war with Japan. We lived in a one-room apartment, with a pull-down Murphy bed, so father took a suite in a hotel in Hollywood, CA. I worked for the Office of War Information. Mother cooked a big turkey. Ted and I, my brother Jack and wife Pat, (Jim had died in a drowning accident years before) all looked on as mother pulled the browned turkey from the oven... out of her hands it slipped, to the floor. (Somewhat washed... we ate it).

Back... someone spotted a boat, gayly decorated coming around the bend of the Fish River... reminiscing...

Christmas Eve in a cramped apartment in New York City with my little boys. My father was dead. Mother, who lived "uptown", helped me prepare the

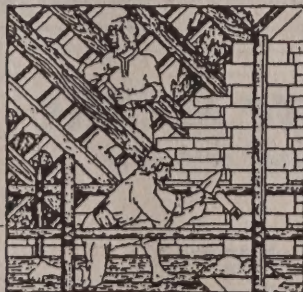
turkey. Ted and 4-year-old Tony and 1-year old Timmy offered advice. A few years later, mother took a train to Westport, CT., where we had a "ultra-modern" house we had built in the woods. Tony had come home from a Christmas Eve cub scout party. Timmy was pulling the sled through the snow outside. My brother Jack and Pat were living in nearby Wilton, with their three sons... due here for dinner tomorrow.

A few years after, Tony and Tim and I rented a small house in Saugatuck, in the Italian section of Westport. Christmas Eve at my house! Mother "trained" out. Jack and Pat with their youngest son, Mike were coming. One son was studying in Paris, and one... died at 17. The whole (wonderfully Italian) family next door came over with food... food... food. Tony had a girlfriend. Tim had a boy from school

Back. ...more boats with lights and ribbons... were coming up the Fish River...

I remember Christmas Eve in the barn... still in Westport. I bought an onion barn, made into a house. The kids had the basement (carved into rock) for a party of their own. My friends came and went upstairs, but at midnight we all toasted the new year, then Tim (aged 14) made apple pancakes for everybody. Mother was too ill to come.

The next year, brother Jack was dead. Two years later, Mother was gone.



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ON THE ROAD, ctd.

Back...more potato salad on the Fish River. A boat was coming with a band!...

Christmas Eve in my house in Monterey, Mass. Tim came from his Mystic, Conn. home, Tony and his wife Debbie came across the Konkapot River. Dinner was delayed, because Tony was sanding roads. Jack's two sons are married, with families...live in New Hampshire and Maine. Pat is remarried. Their home is in California.

Thirteen years ago my own Tony died. Since then, Christmas Eve has been at my nephew Mike's, in my camper at The Slabs in California...in Mazatlan, Mexico...in the Keys. This is my first Christmas in Alabama.

It's going very well. Tomorrow 200 of us are to sit down to dinner. I got this week a rug for my new Alabama house from Jack's son Strohn, a picture of the family from Mike, a note from Pat and tonight a telephone call from my son Tim. He's coming to visit in three weeks.

LOOK AT THAT! The whole boat parade is passing us on the Fish River. This night is good for reminiscing, "Let me have some cookies and a cup of coffee, please." This night is always magic.

Joan Reed

NEW MARLBOROUGH/ MONTEREY SCHOOL NEWS

The new year begins with new programs and new projects. PROJECT DARE '97 began in January. This program - in its eighth year - presents substance abuse prevention techniques to grades K-5. Officer Paul Storti is instructor for K-4.

Two fund raisers are underway. The PTA is sponsoring a Penny Drive from January 6 through February 14. Pennies are being collected to purchase a sign for our New Marlborough school. (I don't remember there ever being a sign there. Do you?) If you have piles of pennies laying around, put them to good use by dropping them off at NMC or Monterey School during the day.

The other fund raiser involves saving Campbell product labels or proof-of-purchase and General Mills cereal box tops. Look for a collection box at your local store.

Firefighter Phil visited on January 10. Sponsored by the fire departments of all five district member towns, Phil reinforces the fire safety techniques learned at the beginning of the year.

Water is the word all around NMC these days. Dan Weston's second grade is beginning a unit on water in all its various forms. For the next six weeks, Shared Discovery Time (when all four grades combine to study) will have water

as its premise. Dinah brought home two experiments from SDT. Test yourself. Do you remember these principles?

One experiment had a scuba diver that you could make dive by putting pressure on the outside of the bottle he was floating in. According to the teacher, Marsha Pottle, this experiment represented Boyle's law. The other was a jar filled with water, cooking oil and liquid soap. Guess what - they all separated because of Pascal's principle. Class dismissed!

Deborah Mielke

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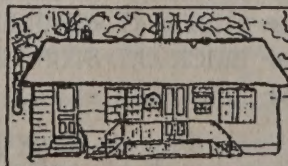
"The pancakes should be denoted by hubcap size

Small is a Honda, medium is a Ford Taurus,
and large is a Mac truck."

-- Matthew Breuer, a Roadside regular

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HISTORY TEST

*February nights are long and dark,
The days are short and cool.
It was also testing time
When I was in school.*

*Supper had been cleared away,
The lamp was turned up high,
A pan of apples close at hand,
Books were opened with a sigh.*

*Soon I was lost in distant lands,
On burning sand and blazing sun,
With honored men of honored deeds,
And victories they had won.*

*He cut the Gordian knot,
Marched across Persia land.
Under the Cambridge elm he stood,
And said, I take command.*

*A lonely man at Gettysburg,
With misty eyes did say,
Today we bless these honored dead,
Oh what a price to pay.*

*This nation shall be one,
All men shall be free.
We cannot turn away,
We must face our destiny.*

*The lamp is burning low,
The apples too, are gone.
I just sat there thinking,
Of those who made our country strong.*

*So if today we feel despair,
Throw up our hands and cry alas.
Please remember all of those,
Who took the test and passed.*

Sheldon Fenn

WOODBURN FARM

I love our land.

*I love the grasses that grow on it,
the bushes and the trees.*

*I love the animals that live on it,
both domestic and wild.*

*I love the birds that fly over it,
and the fishes that swim in our streams,*

*I love the sunshine that ripens our crops,
and the dark clouds that bring the rain.*

I love planting, harvesting, and calving.

I love our land.

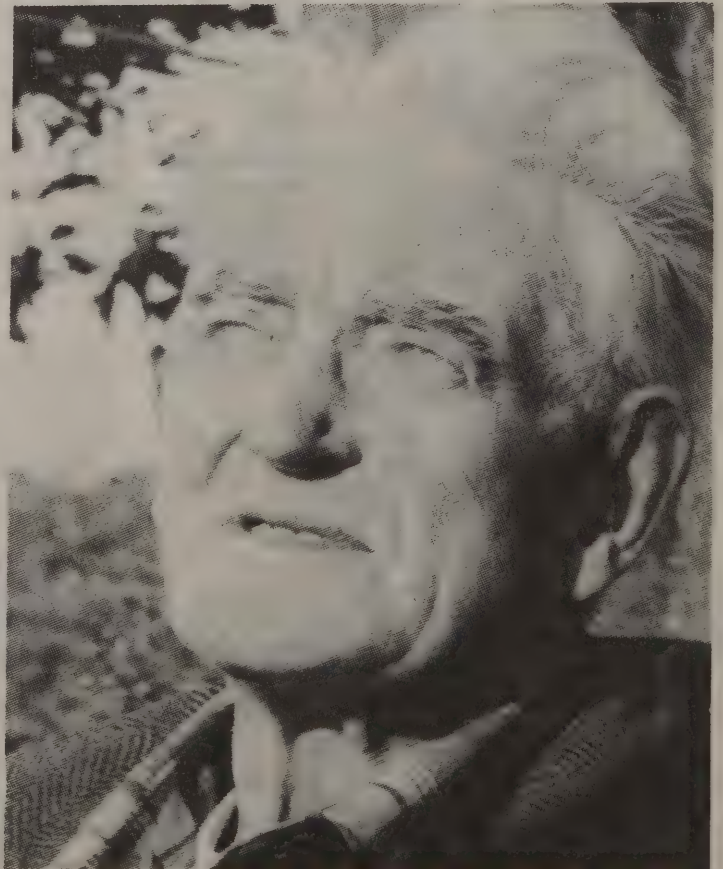
*I love the mist on the meadows at dawning,
and the cows waiting at the gate for milking,*

*I love the cardinal that answers from the pine trees,
when I call the cattle in the morning.*

*I love the freedom we have, to choose our own occupation,
and the know-how that enables us to grow
extra food for a hungry world.*

I love our land.

Sheldon Fenn



WARNING!

Watch out!



I am loaded with love

I might go off the next time I see you

and the air

*would be filled with multi-colored
kisses*

*and you and people
everywhere*

would have to open up umbrellas

on the way to work!

A.O. Howell

*His heart tells him what he needs
His mind speaks of reason
A dry, hollow voice, cold
To a warm season.*

*Emotion's eloquent current
Split by scrupulous logic
Confused, diffused turbulent
Spinning, weak, static*

*Until, deep in his belly-dark
She rose, lovely, stark.
Slipped from his lips
Wrapped herself in his dream
Released the struggling stream*

Nick Hardcastle

THE BUDDHA SITS

*The buddha sits upon the sill
With treasures in his lap;
His smile is crooked and his head
Fell off in a mishap.*

*We set it back upon his neck
But every now and then
The cat jumps up and knocks it off -
(We put it on again).*

Bonner J. McAllester

MUSSEL SHELLS

(for the Franklin Square House toddlers)

*I taught them "Don't,"
and they taught me,
"Touch."
Now a force pulls my hand to the textured surfaces of
dark mussel shells.
They're sewn together with bits of debris;
tight and firm as a parents' grip...
A billion of them,
tiny and precious
cover a rock
with rubbery seaweed hair.*

*I touch
and I see
so much more*

*and the smell of it.
That, too.*

Laura Gaccione

WALK SOFTLY, CARRY A BIG GUIDEBOOK

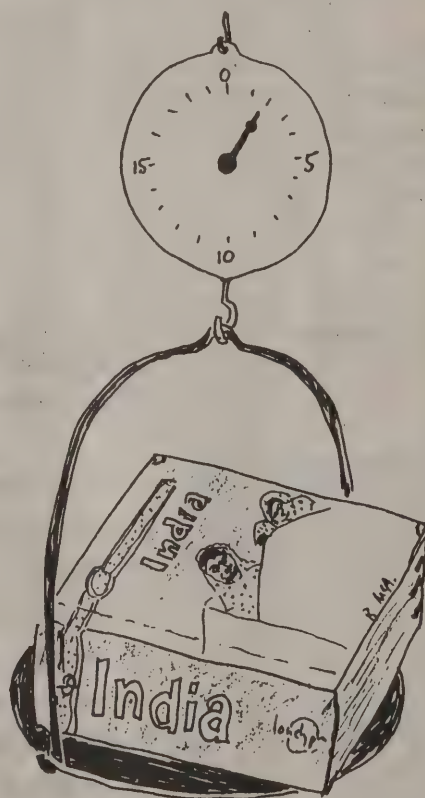
Ever since we got involved with India in a family way, we have found our friends and acquaintances can be divided up into two groups: the ones who say, "INDIA?? Why India?" and all the others who nod with a secret shared understanding and say "India---ah, yes, of course, INDIA!" With this latter group we don't have to respond much, except to smile knowingly and murmur, "Ah," and maybe waggle our heads side to side. But when dealing with the first set, we need to work a little.

First we have to establish that they are not asking why we adopted, but why we adopted from India, and take it from there. We have some personal, practical and circumstantial answers to that one, which we can tell are a disappointment to some people. So then, lately, I hasten to mention that I've just been back, taken the kids on their first return trip since infancy. This is something I can really talk about, and if you are a regular reader of this column, you may well be wondering if there is some point at which I will be content to quit talking about it. I guess the answer is when people quit asking. What they ask is, "How long did you stay, where did you stay, what was it like, what did the kids think, did you get sick, and (especially) how did you know where to go?" The answers, in order, are, "Two weeks, in hotels, it was great, I don't know, no, and we read the guidebook."

"The guidebook" is a general term for one or more of many marvelous works put together by all sorts of people who have travelled (in this case) in India. Looking back I think its most important role is in the pre-trip planning phase. About a month before a trip like mine, most travellers will bit by bit choke off all other sorts of reading. We will take back to the library, unfinished, whatever long novel has been absorbing our precious ten minutes before falling asleep each night. Friends will tell us about this or that great new book and we'll say, "Maybe later. Right now I am reading the guidebook, only."

Maybe we read the whole thing, looking for clues as to which parts of India we should visit, or not visit. Maybe we already know generally where we want to go, so we only read the section on, say, South India. Just when we are getting our confidence up, someone comes along and tells us that the book we have been reading is in fact generally acknowledged to be terrible, especially on South India, and we must get a different one. We are glad we did not buy the first one. We take it back to the library.

Finally we settle. I had looked at all of them, taken notes, spent long



sessions in the bookstore reading the updated editions. For two weeks I held off just because the one I really wanted was by far the heaviest and it even said in one of its own early chapters that I must travel light. At last I shelled out \$25 for *The Lonely Planet* guide, which I knew from having read it already was enough to pay for 10 nights' accommodations in India. But it wasn't the money, it was the weight. This book, though paperback, weighs nearly two pounds.

I've heard of people who carry books while travelling and tear out and

discard the pages as they read them, to lighten their load. I can't do this-- my upbringing was too strict about defacing or disrespecting books. So I lugged the whole thing along, and I am not sorry.

For one thing, as soon as I got to India I stole little glances at the other tourists and I noticed that every one of them clutched the very same bright blue book I had. We grinned at each other the way we used to back in the sixties when passing another VW bus like ours. It's not that these were the best or the only cars to have-- their engines always conked out within 60,000 miles. It's that we had made the same choice, taken the same path, so we were buddies in the huge unthinkable universe. Maybe that path led us to having to rebuild our engine way too soon. Maybe it led us to check in at the Seagull Hotel which looked so good in the book but was actually completely awful. I'm not saying the *Lonely Planet* guidebook enabled me to plan my trip wisely, I'm just saying it gave me the confidence to go to India, and once I was there it functioned as a security blanket and a membership badge and a climbing rope all rolled into one. I had a book like this for my VW, too. It was called *How to Keep Your Volkswagen Alive*, a Guide for the Complete Idiot or "the Idiot Book" for short. I wasn't such a hot mechanic, but just owning the book made me think I could do great things, and then a lot of times I could. In so many cases it is just much easier when you think you know how. It's no accident these guidebooks are so heavy-- weight is confidence-inspiring. And once you have carried 2 pounds of book halfway around the world you feel investment and commitment. You have come in the back door to a necessary high level of confidence-- you have passed the point of questioning the wisdom of your choice and your experience at the Seagull is neither here nor there. You bought it, you carried it, and by God you are having a great trip.

I guess that answers the question. It's not that I knew where to go in India, it's that I had this heavy book along so I thought I did, and after that it didn't matter.

Bonner J. McAllester

WILDLIFE SURVEY

The Landscape. After the thaws of mid-December, our snows have been limited to flurries but a lot of cold weather has kept a white cover on the ground and ice on the ponds and lakes. As of mid-January it has been a time of clear roads, winter-frosted vistas and interesting tracks in the woods.

In the beech and hemlock thickets sleeping deer have melted the thin snow right down to a big oval patch of brown leaves; the cropped tips of moosewood and other shrubs show where they have been browsing.

A Moose. Around December 15, at 6:30 a.m., a small male moose was spotted by Dale Duryea coming out of the woods at the highest point on Rt. 23, east of Lake Garfield. He took his time crossing the highway, stepped over the guardrail and vanished downhill towards the Fargo Swamp. We have to remember how special these occasional sightings are. For over one hundred years these largest members of the deer family (called "elk" in Northern Europe) have been absent from the Berkshires.

The clearcutting of our hillsides for the charcoal to support a small iron-smelting industry in the nineteenth century drastically changed the habitat. Forests were replaced by the hillside pastures of a dairy epoch. This too, is now all but gone, and the forest has returned. Of their own accord the deer came back in the early 1900s, followed by coyotes, wildcats, beavers, and raccoons. The latter two became abundant and we have seen the raccoons all but disappear again in the last few years when the rabies

epidemic reached us. Now our few fishers (pine martins) and moose give us a taste of the North Woods.

Two ravens. On Dec. 27 two ravens, another species associated with the north, were rollicking over the east end of Lake Garfield. The first appeared from the general direction of Otis voicing a "caw" like a strangulated crow. Then he said, "chuck-chuck-chuck," several times and, finding himself in an updraft, set his wings and began gyring like an aspiring hawk. The second raven flew up from the west and the two sailed off, eastward, one of them going "gerlup, gerlup, gerlup, gerlup," and then doing a full barrel roll in the air. All this exuberance is a far cry from our stereotype of the raven sitting forbiddingly indoors, croaking "nevermore."

The 1996 Berkshire Sanctuaries Bluebird Nest Box Project Report. In this column we noted an absence of bluebirds in the spring in the Monterey region and the report confirms that it was the same all over the county. The long winter with continuous snowfall, the late April snowfall and continuous wet spring weather is thought to have reduced the population and discouraged early nesting. Twenty monitors in 16 towns reported no nesting.

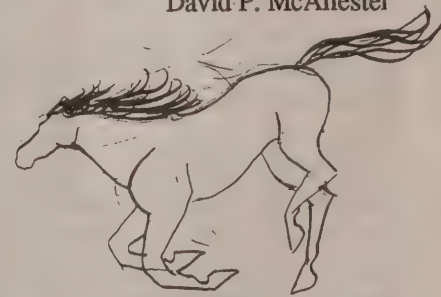
However, 34 reports did site 70 nestings, 288 eggs laid, 253 hatched and 202 successfully fledged, an 87.8% hatching rate and a 79.8% fledging rate. After ten years as a "tireless champion of Berkshire bluebirds....serving very ably the last seven as our project coordinator," Elmer Mellen has stepped down. Rene Laubach, Director of the Sanctuary (413-

637-0320), is seeking a new volunteer coordinator for the coming season.

Winter Birds. Chickadees, blue jays, juncos, mourning doves, titmice, nuthatches and small clocks of goldfinches (and grey squirrels!) - these are the regulars at the bird feeders. Flying squirrels come at night, so we rarely see them: they appear and disappear as suddenly as chickadees and make one wonder if we're watching **Mother Evolution producing a new and different kind of bird.** Dale reports very few wild turkeys and wonders if they have retired into the higher country for some reason. He had a call to rescue a pair of geese that seemed trapped in the ice on Lake Garfield. It turned out that they were just bathing in a very small open area. Three years ago he saw one that was caught in the ice on the Housatonic River. It couldn't be reached but was gone the next morning: it must have sat down and thawed itself out.

Frozen brooks. A special sight in mid-January is the gliding air bubbles under the thin ice on newly frozen brooks. Dark shapes suddenly appear, hesitate in an eddy, then shoot downstream. With metamorphic virtuosity they change pattern every instant, accompanied by the muffled chuckle of the hidden brook.

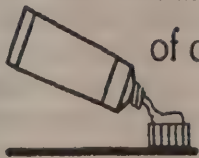
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BUILDING THE MONTEREY MEETING HOUSE

In last month's installment of our history of Monterey's United Church of Christ, Delight W. Dodyk recounted the continued economic development of Monterey and its incorporation into a town. The decision to relocate the Southern church to "a more convenient place" - its economic center - was followed by the town fathers' fundraising and search for an appropriate piece of land.

In this installment, Delight picks up the story of the building of the present church, focusing on the historic and architectural value of the structure.

In 1847 the South Tyringham Meeting-House Society was poised to start construction on the new meeting house. With land donated, the solicitation committee doing its job, and the proud new Town of Monterey incorporated in April 1847, the building committee got to work. This committee was dominated by the Langdon family. It was comprised of Jason Langdon, John Langdon, Wilbur C. Langdon, and John Mansir (1808-1871), Wilbur Langdon's brother-in-law and kin of Henry Mansir, who had donated the land. The other committee member was Samuel Townsend, a resident with deepest roots in the town, a major donor to the project, and a solicitor of subscriptions.

Despite the fact that several carpenters lived in Monterey at the time—indeed Justice of the Peace Milton Judd and John Mansir himself were carpenters—the committee chose two Sandisfield men to actually construct the building. Perhaps it was too difficult politically to choose between Monterey residents; or perhaps the men chosen had experience building churches elsewhere. Theron R. Wolcott (1811-1888) did the excavation and built the marble foundation. Elizur G. Perry, a member of the Congregational Church of Sandisfield, framed the building, did the finishing, and painted it.

The meeting house they constructed is a treasure to the town today. It qualifies

as a historical landmark, both for its architectural interest and its significance in the history of the town. According to architectural historian Bonnie Parsons of Blandford, the Monterey Meeting House is a "rural version of a high-style temple elevation which was used, albeit sparingly, in both the North and South." (Parsons, p. 3) It is a relatively rare form of Greek Revival church architecture and, equally important, it is relatively unaltered from its original state. Many old New England churches have been "improved" and gussied up over the years, but Monterey has been thankfully careful in keeping the original design of its church. The changes that have been made have been done with sensitivity to the original scale and design of the building. When first built, the meeting house did not have the bell tower or the door and vestibule on the Tyringham Road side; both are later nineteenth-century additions. Its original front stairs probably would have been wooden.

The meeting house is a rectangular wooden, single-story building appropriate in design and proportion to its location. It is approximately 36 by 52 feet, three bays wide and four bays deep with a slate roof. The front, gable side of the building, which faces south overlooking the main road, (and Wilbur Langdon's store), has several points of interest. The front facade is "blind," having no windows. The blind facade and recessed center entry contribute to the rarity of the building. The building's three bays are separated by four Doric pilasters; the center bay contains the double leaf, five-paneled entry doors. Above the bays, further suggesting a Greek temple, is a triangular upper portion of the facade in which the eaves return fully to form a pediment. The flat inner portion, the tympanum, is "flush boarded," there being no overlap of the boards that the clapboards elsewhere on the building have. The flush boarding was intended to resemble stone. The Greek Revival details around the doors are another distinguishing classical feature. The surround (or frame) of the doors repeats smaller Doric pilasters and has a cornice extending in high relief with dentils. All these design

features combine to create a pure, balanced and economical exterior well suited to the building's location and the community's means.

Although the Greek Revival style was widely adopted in public buildings and residential architecture of the 1840s, the form used in the Monterey Meeting House was not that common. There is no evidence that an architect designed the meeting house. During the period, it was common for local builders to refer to available builder's handbooks and to re-interpret and simplify the Greek Revival style to suit their own needs and budgets. Elizur Perry, the builder, may have owned one of these builder's handbooks which would have given to him the over-all design, plus specific directions for constructing ornamentation such as the Doric pilasters, dentil molding, and flush-boarded tympanum. If he did not have access to a handbook itself, he had at least seen other churches or drawings of them, and may well have worked on building them.

Parsons suggests that the source of the "elevation" (architectural drawing) from which the Monterey building may have originally been adapted was the New York architectural firm of Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis, (in particular the architect Calvin Pollard) whose work helped to popularize the Greek Revival style and inspired several derivative church buildings, some pictured in modern published sources. Churches with features related to the Monterey church stand in Petersburg, Virginia (1840s), Mobile Alabama (1835-37), Mansfield, Connecticut (1840) Bath, Maine (1843), and Harpswell Center, Maine (1843).

The interior of the meeting house which remains today, has been relatively unaltered from the original. It has a shallow entry vestibule with doors at each end. The main sanctuary, which is raised above the vestibule by three steps, has a raised dais at the north end and a simple gallery at the south end. The gallery was originally open, though now it is enclosed. The pipe organ was a later addition. The older, more conservative style box pews are arranged with two side

aisles. Parsons suggests that the use of box pews is indicative of the "rural, conservative nature of the church's architecture." (Parsons, p.4) The interior trim is consistent with the Greek Revival style. Of special interest are the decorative moldings around the windows and doors, called "eared architrave surrounds" in architectural parlance. The six double-hung sash windows, three on the east and three on the west, are 25 panes over 25, clear glazed and flood the sanctuary with light. Some shutter dogs remain on the outside of the building from the original shutters shown in the accompanying photo from around 1951.

The Monterey Meeting House resembles, in some respects, other Greek Revival churches which had already been built in our area, particularly the New Marlborough church

(1837) and the north Tyringham church (1844). Unlike the Tyringham church, the Monterey church does not have an open porch with full columns, but instead, like the New Marlborough church, has an interior, and protected, vestibule at the south end of the building through which the congregation enters the sanctuary. All three churches have "blind" front facades. Inside all three churches, there is a raised dais at the front of the church and a balcony at the rear. The seating is divided by two aisles, a common design in rural New England churches. All the churches are graced with wonderful natural lighting achieved by the tall, clear-glazed windows on the sides of their sanctuaries. LATER ADDITIONS. The bell tower that is part of the Monterey church today was added some time in the 1880s. The style of the bell tower continues the Greek Rival

style of the church, using Doric corner posts, the three-bay effect, and the same cornice styling. It also has features, however, that identify it as a later addition. Its ornamental railing with turned balusters (the pillar-like supports) was a popular feature in Queen Anne style architecture of the 1880s; the necessary tools for



making these details were not available in the 1850s. The belfry is a "single stage" belfry with a flat roof, indicating that it was designed so a taller tower or steeple could be added to it later. Monterey historian, the late Julius Miner, relates the story of how the bell with its "rich, mellow tone" was chosen for the new bell tower. "One day some scaffolds were erected and bells were hung on it. The people assembled and listened carefully as the different bells were struck. The one now in use is the one selected." (Miner and Mansfield, p. 23) Julius Miner did not tell us when this selection occurred, but he was born in 1883, so perhaps he remembered this event as a very small boy. It is a real misfortune that the bell cannot be rung today because of the fact that the belfry is in need of substantial repair and cannot sustain the movement.

The vestibule and east side door were also added to the meeting house at a later period, probably around the 1890s. They also were built with a sensitive eye to maintaining unity of design. The vestibule has Doric pilasters and a pediment above. The interior trim around the inside door was made to match the existing interior trim. The six-light textured glass transom over the outside door is the give-away that it is a later nineteenth century addition. Other more recent alterations to the building include the flagstone and concrete front steps, the brick chimney, the fire escape, the addition in the north wall for the pipe organ, and the exit door inserted in one of the windows.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW BUILDING.

The construction of the meeting house was started in 1847 and continued throughout 1848. It was complete enough by the end of the year for the building to be dedicated on the first Sunday of 1849. The Rev. Mr. Howe continued as pastor, having successfully led the congregation during the difficult times of decision and building. He had a reputation as "a good minister, a skillful manager and an admirable adviser," and he may well have seen as part of his ministry, the successful shepherding of the relocation of the church. (Dooley, p. 40) It was an exciting and enlivening time for the congregation, as 20 men and women were accepted into church membership during his pastorate. Howe remained as minister until 1854.

When the church held its annual meeting in 1850, the building committee reported the expenses for the building.

The excavation and foundation by Theron Wolcott cost \$306; the timber and hauling of materials cost \$228.54; the framing and enclosing of the building by Elizur Perry was \$1400; the finishing and painting by Perry was \$833; and the cost of the stoves and stove pipe, and the deed registry was \$19.80. All told, the new meeting house cost \$2787.34. The congregation established a system for maintaining the building by appraising the value of each pew and having people bid on the rental of a pew, starting at the appraised value. In 1850 the church realized \$199.50 from these pew rentals.

Changes within church communities can be painful at times, and so it was in Monterey. There were those who continued to oppose the move, particularly those living close to the "old center," and they clung loyally to the old church, keeping it in repair. Resisting the relocation, they actually brought suit in court, claiming a right to the fund established in 1809 for the support of the ministry in the old center." The court ruled against their claim in 1854 (?) on the grounds that a

legitimate vote of a majority of the members had decided the change and the newly relocated church was entitled to the Congregational Society funds. Ill feeling resulting from the controversy drove some away from the old church. In 1849, for example, a long-time member asked for his release from the "old center" church membership, explaining, "Last Sabbath completed exactly forty years that I have endeavored to be a peaceable member in this church and I have had no piece [sic] from the crown of my head to the souls [sic] of my feet. Therefore this is to demand an immediate discharge from your division of the church." (Dooley, p. 40) The "old center" folks held on, nevertheless, and sometimes shared their building with a group of Methodists.

The 1850 national census lists two Congregational churches in Monterey. But as the active, new village of Monterey grew, gradually the "old center" congregation drifted away to the new church. By 1873 the "old center" church, its prized bell, and the flagstone walk leading to it were sold at auction and the \$430.62 in proceeds were added to the Congregational Society fund. It was the Methodists from Housatonic who bought the building, which they dismantled and hauled away to Housatonic where it was reconstructed. Apparently the church was still in use there in 1900, but a recent visit to Housatonic revealed a very different building in use by the Methodists. The new Monterey Meeting House was solidly established at the time, and the new town of Monterey firmly rooted by the main road and the Konkapot brook.

Sources: Dooley, Rev. John, et al, eds. History of the First Congregational Society in Monterey, Massachusetts. Great Barrington: Courier Book and Job Press, 1900. Gilder, Cornelia Brooke. Views of the Valley, Tyringham, 1739-1989. Tyringham: Hop Brook Community Club, 1989. Miner, Julius, and Marjorie Mansfield. New England's Monterey. Monterey: Monterey Congregational Church, c. 1951. Parsons, Bonnie. "Cultural Resource Inventory Form, Monterey Congregational Church." November 15, 1996. United States Census, 1850.

Delight Wing Dodyk

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLANNED

The United Church of Christ Capital Campaign is hoping to raise \$200,000 to preserve the meeting house. The main projects planned are to replace the rotted structural elements of the belfry, the bell carrier and other beams, replace missing roof slates, and repair other exterior and foundation deteriorations.

In addition, plans are being considered to make the church accessible to the handicapped via a lift from the ground floor, and for the repair and restoration of the organ.

The committee consists of Robert Emmel (chair), Delight Dodyk, Wayne Dunlop, Sally Fijux, Linda Hebert, Bill Hobbie, Georgia Noria, Gige O'Connell, Lew Scheffey, Keith Snow, Barbara Swann, Barbara Tryon and Kathy Page Wasiuk.

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WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

Profile: Laura Gaccione



MAGGIE LEONARD

This month we welcome a new editor to the Monterey News, Laura Gaccione. Laura lives at the former Lee Side Lodge, now called Blue Heron's Landing, in an upstairs apartment with handsome photographs and prints on the walls inside and a view of Lake Buel out the west windows. She is a bold newcomer to the Berkshires, having fallen in love with the people and the landscape back in 1994.

Laura grew up in New York State, in Mt. Vernon and near Peekskill, and her mother lives near Peekskill still. She has three brothers in California; Westchester Co., NY; and on Cape Cod. She herself made the move to Massachusetts in 1978, after graduating from SUNY New Paltz with a degree in English Literature. Laura got a job teaching English at Chamberlayne Jr. College and lived in the Boston area for several years, working, writing, and developing her interest in children and childcare.

After working in several childcare centers she realized that although the kids and the work were endlessly fascinating and always would be, to her, she would have a difficult time making a living in this field. So she went back to her other love, writing, and entered a graduate program in journalism at Northeastern, with a print-journalism focus.

During the next four years, Laura

lived in Jamaica Plain and had various journalistic jobs through the program at Northeastern. She was a correspondent for *College Hockey Magazine* and travelled to Ottawa to cover the first Women's Ice Hockey World Championship. She interned at *The Boston Parents' Paper* and filed stories to the *Arlington Advocate* from the State House.

"The most fun I had was working with State Rep Jim Marzilli (D. Arlington), who had a bone to pick... In 1994 there was only one legislator in the State House who had an internet connection. Marzilli bought his own computer setup, but couldn't get funding for an extra phone line. They didn't even have e-mail within the State House except in the governor's office. So I had fun writing about this-- I found out that in Hawaii anybody could go into a supermarket and get on the internet and find out what was happening in the state government, but here in Massachusetts the legislators couldn't."

After finishing her M.A., Laura saw an ad for a job as a general assignment reporter and photographer at the *Berkshire Record* in Great Barrington. She had travelled to Arizona, thinking she might like to live there, but "...I realized I would miss the green." The *Record*, impressed with Laura's writing in the *Arlington Advocate*, hired her in June of 1994 and she lived for a time right upstairs from her office on Elm St., Great Barrington.

"After Boston, the Berkshires seemed so civilized," she says. She enjoyed covering select board meetings in Great Barrington and West Stockbridge and became more and more interested in community newspaper work. In the fall, when her dad became seriously ill, Laura left the *Record* in order to be able to travel back and forth freely to Peekskill to be with her parents. After her dad died, Laura came back to the Berkshires full time and took up work as a free-lance writer, working for *The Advocate*, the *Associated Press*, and for a publishing business in Great Barrington which specializes in anthropological reference works. She has just finished co-authoring a volume on natural medicine in various

cultures around the world.

Here in the Berkshires Laura has kept up her interest and work in childcare and childhood development. She works for a family in Stockbridge taking care of "a delightful 18-month-old boy," and she worked at the DeSisto school where she organized a newsletter. She plans to write a book about child development and parenting.

About the *Monterey News* Laura says, "I've always wanted to work on a community newspaper. I was finishing up my project [the natural medicine book] at Berkshire Reference Works and had seen the *Monterey News*. One day at church [Monterey UCC] I saw MaryKate Jordan [of the MNews Board of Directors] looking at me from across the room as if a light had suddenly gone on in her head. Then she told me the paper was looking for a new editor."

This is Laura's first issue of the *Monterey News*. She has made room for the venerable Macintosh in her apartment and has been learning the intricacies of our paper and our town, with help from former editor Pete Murkett and the rest of the MNews staff and Board of Directors. Laura says she has always wanted to balance working with children and writing and that in addition to her journalistic and documentary work she has written many poems about kids, especially during her Boston years.

Here at the Monterey News we are happy to have found Laura, glad that she and MaryKate are both church-goers. Look for her in her dark blue VW, with a bright scarf around her neck, collecting copy from the MNews box. She's a new face around town, bringing new energy, perspective, and journalistic experience to our paper. We'll be looking forward to the changes, the Gaccione flavor.

Bonner McAllester



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UPON MY WORD!

His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, whom we had the privilege of meeting in Dharamsala in India several years ago, told us that his only religion is kindness. What a wonderful world it would be if people would simply be kind to one another! So what does that word mean? Well, it comes from the Middle English: *kinde*, which meant natural. In fact, their expression for Mother Nature was Dame Kinde. In my etymological dictionary, kind is defined as natural, loving. The Sanskrit root is *gan*, to generate. One could speculate that nature was seen back then as having been generated lovingly and that human nature's natural bent is to be kind. It should not be all that difficult.

As Mother Teresa puts it: "We can do no great things, only little ones with great love."

Alice O. Howell

BOOK REVIEW

The Latest Epistle of Jim

by Roy Shepard
Mid-List Press, Minneapolis, 1996


The clarity of Roy Shepard's vision and his deceptively simple declarative sentences move the reader through what turns out to be anything but a typical workday for Reverend Jack Andrews in Shepard's new novel, *The Latest Epistle of Jim*.

As the reader takes the risk of walking the proverbial mile in Andrews' shoes, a number of unspoken assumptions about ministers, their private lives, the importance of anyone's life in a small community, all begin to bubble. They break the surface of conscious thought like water gently simmering in a kettle on the stove.

The hum of the kettle on the back burner of the mind all through the reader's journey in Andrews' shoes is subtle, powerful, even disorienting. It makes reading this book a startling experience, rather like seeing a familiar landscape at night, by moonlight, for the very first time. Give it a try this winter.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Feb. 12: "Cues of Infants" led by Allison Nash of Berkshire Visiting Nurses Assoc. at the Family Center at 6:30 p.m. Call Loren at 528-0721 for more information.
Feb. 19: Free Roller-Skating at Searles School on Bridge Street. Sponsored by the South Berkshire Task Force for Families and Children, 3-5 p.m. Call Laurie Flower at 298-3178 for information.
February 27: Sexual Abuse Prevention led by Julia Mines, Rape Crisis Center and Jennifer Tierney Stokes, Berkshire County Children's Advocacy Center. Family Center, 6:30 p.m. Childcare available. Call Laurie Flower at 298-3178 for more information. Sponsored by the Southern Berkshire Task Force for Families and Children.

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Why the Alford compromise amendment will benefit the Town of Monterey and the School District:

To The Editor:

As many of the readers of the Monterey News may know, for several years, the five member towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District have been squabbling over the proper method for electing school committee members. This dispute centers on concerns that the current procedures may be unconstitutional for failing to provide equal votes to every resident in the school district. Recently, the matter spilled over into Federal Court when the Town of Sheffield sued the School District and the other four towns to declare the current system unconstitutional and to impose "weighted voting" in the district.

The remedy which Sheffield is seeking in the lawsuit failed to gain voter approval in the five member towns when it came up for a vote in 1995 and 1996. The Federal Court has temporarily stopped the lawsuit until May, 1997 to allow the Towns to vote on a compromise proposal, which could end the need for a lawsuit.

The purpose of this letter is to advise readers of the pending compromise proposal, which has been put forward by residents of the Town of Alford by a petition signed by residents in all five towns. I believe it will be beneficial to

the school children and voters in the district, as well as to the Town of Monterey, to vote in favor of the Alford compromise when it comes up for a vote at the next town meeting.

The Alford compromise proposal combines previous suggestions by the Town of Egremont and the Town of Sheffield. Essentially, Egremont and other towns have been seeking district-wide voting in which all voters in the district have the opportunity to vote for all nominees to the school committee, with each town guaranteed a certain number of its own residents to serve on the school committee no matter what the outcome of the vote. This is the procedure which is currently in use in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and many other districts around the State.

The Sheffield proposal seeks to weight the vote of the member towns in accordance with population censuses. This will significantly increase the voting strength of Sheffield and if trends continue, may give Sheffield a majority vote on the committee in the near future. If that happens, it won't matter who Monterey or the other Towns elect to the School Committee, since Sheffield's members could control virtually all decisions.

The Alford proposal combines elements of both Town's proposals. It allows for district-wide voting and also increases the strength of the Sheffield's and Monterey's vote, although not to the

extent that Sheffield is seeking. I believe that the proposed amendment will benefit the Town of Monterey for the following reasons:

1. Passage of the proposed amendment will stop the lawsuit from draining resources of the school district and will prevent the taxpayers of this town and other towns in the district from financing wasteful and potentially expensive litigation. Sheffield's attorney has indicated his intention to seek legal fees from the Regional School District. If the Court awards fees, these fees may be passed on to each of the member towns in accordance with their pro rata share of the expenses of running the school district. Thus, a vote in favor of the Alford proposal may stop the lawsuit and save considerable taxes.

2. A vote in favor of the proposed amendment will allow school administrators to concentrate on education instead of litigation.

3. The Town of Monterey would benefit by the Alford proposal, since its voting strength would increase from 10% to 12%.

4. Finally, a compromise would help heal the wounds engendered by years of dispute, and would avoid the undesirable outcome of having a Federal Court imposing its views upon the residents of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

I urge town voters to come out in strength to support the proposed compromise amendment. This amendment represents a positive middle ground and will save taxes, stop the lawsuit, increase Monterey's representation on the Committee, and for the first time, require that all the School Committee members be answerable to all the voters in the District.

Very truly yours,
Charles J. Ferris

Charles J. Ferris is an attorney practicing law in Monterey and Great Barrington. He represents the Town of Egremont in the lawsuit being prosecuted by the Town of Sheffield against the other towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

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DAREN FITZPATRICK,

Monterey Police Officer

Daren Scott Fitzpatrick, 20, of Great Barrington, died yesterday at his Everett Street home.

Born in Great Barrington on July 19, 1976, son of Barbara L. Dellea Muller and G. Patrick Fitzpatrick Jr., he attended local schools and was a 1995 graduate of Monument Mountain Regional High School, where he was a member of the wrestling team. While in high school, he was involved in an internship program sponsored by the Egremont Police Department and attended the Police Training Academy in Agawam.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was a part-time police officer in Monterey and a student at Berkshire community College, where he was majoring in Criminal Justice. A volunteer town fire-fighter, he was also employed by the Big Y Supermarket and previously worked at Martin's Restaurant.

He was a communicant of St. Peter's Church, where he was an altar boy from the time he was in 2nd grade until 1993.

Besides his father, he leaves his mother and step-father, William F. Muller, two brothers, Kevin J. Fitzpatrick of Fort Benning, Ga., and a sister, Amy F. Fitzpatrick.

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THE OBSERVER -

The publication schedule of the Monterey News imposes a handy grace period for talking about the weather: December statistics are written up in January for the February issue; one can't help looking out the window while looking back a month, and the stretch is a good reminder that the weather in our region is nothing if not changeable.

At this mid-January writing we are in the first prolonged cold spell of winter, and the snow cover may be meager, but at least it's there. December started out full of promise for a white Christmas, with an eighteen-inch snowfall in one storm before the ground even froze. Plowing that snow off dirt road and driveways was like operating a grader, and the snowbanks were full of gravel. Then weather insulted climate with grey skies and rain for the rest of the month. The average temperature for the month (31°) ended up eight-and-a-half degrees above last year's December average and 5.7° above the regional norm. The ground was brown, not white, and if we had cloud-cover statistics to measure the gloom factor, it would likely have been off the charts; 2.32" rain fell, where half an inch fell during the month a year ago. December snowfall (29.5") was half an inch greater this year, but it was all gone within a week. These are the rest of the numbers:

High temp. (12/2) 52°
Low temp. (12/31) 0°
Avg. high temp. 36°
Avg. low temp. 25°
Avg. temp. 31°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.) 25.3°

Precip. occ. 18 days
Rainfall 2.32"
Snowfall 29.5"
Total precip. 6.29"
Monthly norm. (Pitts.) 3.70"
High bar. press. (12/26) 30.40"
Low bar. press. (12/8) 29.32"
Avg. wind speed 25 mph
High wind gust (/) 39 mph

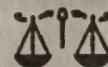


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TO THE EDITOR:

I am a long-time reader of the Monterey News, also a columnist and a member of the Board of Directors. From these vantage points I have taken a triangular view of things and for the past three and a half years I have seen Pete Murkett take up the reins as editor and carry the paper to new heights of literary, artistic and community accomplishment. Pete had to enter the computer age suddenly, with his first issue, making a sawdust-free zone in which to house the M News' Macintosh and time and mental space to juggle the telephone, the software, the ads, the famous volatile egos of a stableful of writers and poets. He was a slave to the relentless monthly deadline all these years (43 issues, I make it), and still he kept his sense of humor, his long view of the paper and the town. Not only did he have to get the paper out, he had to go to board meetings, too. Pete led the way into the Monterey News' first publishing venture, the Hannah Climenta Pixley journal, which was such a success that it quickly paid for itself and has done much to cover the t-shirt venture as well.

We on the Board of Directors were always wondering how long it would be before some scout, some pro on our mailing list, wooed Pete away from us, offering him fame, money, an office, freedom from paste-up, a separate department for ads. But he was true blue and never left us for any of these. In the end he left his job as editor of the News for something much bigger, namely his life. He's happy, he's got it back, now, and all we can say is, "Thanks, Pete, for

giving us so much for so long."

Pete has passed along the editorial computer, the files, the ads, the joys and woes to the competent Laura Gaccione. We've got a new editor, but in many ways we haven't lost the old one. Like other editors emeritus before him, Pete is staying on as a board member, a writer, a proud parent and shaper of the paper.

Bonner J. McAllester
President of the Board of Directors
The Monterey News, Inc.

THE MONTEREY GRANGE

The Jan. 15 meeting started with a dues-paying supper. Deputy Peter Martin was present and outlined Grange events for the coming year. Members enjoyed a variety program, including readings, quizzes and skits. The Grange is struggling to continue. For two months there will be one meeting per month. The Feb. 19 meeting starts with a covered dish supper at 7 p.m., a business meeting and a patriotic program.

CALENDAR

Sundays, AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Tuesday, Feb. 18, Free blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m. in the basement room of the Monterey Grange (town offices), Main Road.

Wednesday, Feb. 19, Meeting of the Monterey Grange No. 291, 8p.m. (7 p.m. supper) at the Grange Hall.

Wednesday, Feb. 19 Meeting of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District, 7 p.m. in the church basement.

Friday, Feb. 14. Happy Valentines' Day!

Saturday, Feb. 22, Square and contradiction at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances taught, beginners and children welcome. Refreshments. Adults \$5, children \$2. For more information, call 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

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News by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a Macintosh formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone in Monterey at 413-528-5522.

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Contributions from artists this month: Mo Banner, pp. 1,8,13,22; Sudi Baker, p. 15; Bonner McAllester, p. 14

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